

service. As I remember my friend, I will remember his vitality, his sense of humor, his devotion to service, and most of all, his leadership and inspiration. We should all remember Svend Auken as a great citizen of the world.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "SAFE ROUTES TO HIGH SCHOOLS ACT OF 2009"

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, obesity rates for children between the ages of 12 and 19 have more than tripled in the past fifteen years, with 17.6 percent of high school age children now classified as obese. This has a profound impact on the long-term health of our nation, as 80 percent of obese children become obese adults, putting them at a higher risk for diabetes, hypertension, cancer, and other chronic health conditions, and placing an increased long-term burden on our healthcare system. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that children be active for at least 60 minutes five times a week, but statistics show that activity levels drop rapidly as students head into their high school years. Increasing opportunities for adolescents to be physically active will help combat the rise in teenage obesity.

We should provide students with safe, active ways to get to and from school and encourage healthy, active lifestyles and daily exercise at a time when they are seeking independence and cementing lifelong habits that will make them safer and healthier.

This is why I am introducing the Safe Routes to High Schools Act, a bill to expand the popular Safe Routes to Schools program to include high schools. The Safe Routes to Schools program has been extraordinarily successful, with over 4,500 programs across the country, but it currently does not cover high schools. High school students represent a population most likely to suffer from high rates of obesity and also most in need of flexible, independent, and low-cost transportation choices, especially in times of economic crisis. This simple policy change will allow an already successful program to serve the students who need it the most.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation to ensure that children of all ages have safe ways to get to school burning calories instead of carbon.

RECOGNIZING SITRIN HEALTH CARE'S WHEELCHAIR CURLING TEAM

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sitrin Health Care's wheelchair curling team, which will represent the United States as Team USA at the 2010 Paralympic Games. Today marks the 100-day countdown to the games set to begin March 12, 2010 in Vancouver, B.C.

Sitrin's team has earned worldwide attention over the last few years, winning the bronze medal at the 2008 World Wheelchair Curling Championships in Switzerland and narrowly missing the bronze in the 2009 World Wheelchair Curling Championship held in Vancouver. In preparation for next year's competition, Team USA has been practicing at the Olympic Training Center in Lake Placid, New York, and competing internationally in Norway and Scotland.

The team's impressive record of achievement owes to Sitrin's Success Through Adaptive Recreation and Sports (STARS) program, created in 2001 to provide individuals with physical disabilities opportunities to engage in a variety of sports on a recreational or competitive basis. In addition to curling, the STARS program includes adaptive golf, wheelchair basketball, adaptive paddling and wheelchair road racing. Sitrin, located in my district in New Hartford, New York, operates the wheelchair curling program in partnership with the Utica Curling Club in Whitesboro, New York.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sitrin's wheelchair curling team on its accomplishments to date, and in wishing the athletes luck in the upcoming Paralympic games. Sitrin's paralympians are an inspiration to athletes across our nation, and I look forward to following their success in Vancouver.

CALLING ON THE U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF SRI LANKA'S TAMIL INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. McMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 711.

The Tamil people have been exposed to unspeakable tragedies by all sides in the most recent ethnic conflict.

Yet, the so-called end to the conflict in Sri Lanka has only brought more suffering and brutality to the Tamil people.

Housed in barrack-style IDP camps, without the option of release, these 300,000 refugees are repeatedly betrayed by Sri Lankan officials that claim to be protecting them from the LTTE, a terrorist organization who was uprooted this Spring.

Furthermore, stories of torture and injustice seep through the high barbed-wire walls surrounding these camps, despite limited access to outside NGOs and the media.

This is frightening and simply unacceptable.

My message has always been clear: I will not stand for the atrocities being committed in Sri Lanka.

Through my work on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and the subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, I have worked with Chairman BERMAN to include a provision in the Foreign Relations Authorization Act to condemn the Sri Lankan government's inaction and to mandate a cultural exchange for the new generation of Sri Lankans to study tolerance in the United States.

For three long decades, Sri Lankans have been pitted against one another.

And, thousands of innocent lives have been lost.

It is time for a new direction in Sri Lanka.

It is time for a political solution and an integration of minorities in Sri Lanka.

Clearly, it is not enough to release a small number of refugees to host families or, for that matter, to farmland—as the government has reportedly been doing.

These people must immediately be allowed to return to their homes and to their daily lives.

A TRIBUTE TO JESSE W. GRIDER

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, 1 week from today, our Nation will honor our veterans and remember all those who have fallen in order for us to be free.

I rise today to honor one veteran in particular, Jesse W. Grider, a true patriot whose dedication to our Commonwealth and Nation is to be commended.

Mr. Grider enrolled in the National Guard in 1950 at the age of 17. Upon his return from the Korean war, Mr. Grider continued his dedication to his country and district by serving in the Glasgow Police Department, attaining the rank of sergeant.

In 1958, he was appointed a U.S. Deputy Marshal in the Western District of Kentucky, where he served as an instructor and trainer. At one point in his career, Mr. Grider had trained two-thirds of the deputy marshals in the United States.

After his work at the U.S. Marshal's Service in Washington, D.C., Mr. Grider returned to Kentucky in 1973 where he served as Chief Deputy Marshal before being appointed in 1975 as the U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Kentucky.

After his retirement as U.S. Marshal, Mr. Grider was appointed Clerk of the U.S. District Court in the Western District of Kentucky, where he served 17 years.

On Veteran's Day, friends, family and members of the Barren County and Glasgow communities will come together to recognize Mr. Grider's distinguished career. I join them in honoring Jesse W. Grider and thank him for his service and the great contributions he has made to our Nation and community.

CONGRATULATIONS, LT. COMMANDER JOHN R. LOGAN

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the achievements of a Navy Lieutenant from my district, John R. Logan, who will be promoted to the rank of Lt. Commander in a ceremony that will be held this morning here in the Capitol Building. Presently serving as the Command Chaplain at the Marine Barracks here in Washington, D.C., Lt. Logan has been decorated with the Navy and

Marine Corps Commendation Medal and the Navy Achievement Medal.

A veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, Lt. Logan was born in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. He received a B.A. in Theology from the Antillean Adventist University in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico in 1992. He was licensed by the North Caribbean Conference of Seventh Day Adventists and began pastoral duties on St. Croix and St. Maarten.

Lt. Logan graduated with his Master of Divinity Degree on August 8, 1998 from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Two years later, he received a Masters in Social Work from the University of Michigan, with a clinical emphasis in children and Youth in Marriage and Family in Society. He subsequently served as a youth pastor, mental health therapist and marriage and family therapist in Michigan.

As a soldier, Lt. Logan served as Flotilla Chaplain of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary before coming on active duty in 2001, serving aboard the USS *Belleau* and deploying on WESTPAC 2002 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In January 2004, he was assigned as Squadron Chaplain to Marine Aircraft Group 16 and was later deployed to Al Asad, Iraq with MAG-16 Headquarters in support of Iraqi Freedom in May 2007. Earlier this year, he graduated from the U.S. Naval War College, Fleet Seminar Program, receiving a diploma from the College of Naval Command and Staff.

Madam Speaker, Lt. Logan, soon to become a Lt. Commander in the Navy has combined his call to serve others with distinguished service as a soldier, a counselor and a minister. He is one of our best, as he provides counsel to his fellows in the armed services and to civilians in need of his help. We are proud of his accomplishments and on behalf of my family, staff, and the people of the Virgin Islands I wish him well as he continues to serve his country and his community with distinction.

HONORING PORTRAIT OF MAQUOKETA

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rose Frantzen, her husband Charles Morris, the Frantzen family, and the entire Maquoketa, Iowa community on the premier of Ms. Frantzen's Portrait of Maquoketa at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. This work will be on display from November 2009 to July 2010.

Portrait of Maquoketa is a compilation of 180 individual oil portraits of Maquoketa residents painted between July 2005 and July 2006. Ms. Frantzen's exceptional skill is evident in each portrait, but the paintings are more striking when displayed together.

Ms. Frantzen describes Portrait of Maquoketa as "an unfiltered representation of this small Iowa community at this time in history." Unlike many portraits that are commissioned or collected by people with a distinct interest in art, Ms. Frantzen took a democratic approach to her work and opened her store

front studio to any Maquoketa who wished to pose for her. She painted children, adults, seniors and adolescents. During the sittings she conducted informal interviews and later made audio recordings of her neighbors' stories, ideas, and beliefs. Many of these recordings are part of the installation at the Portrait Gallery.

The individuals in Portrait of Maquoketa don't look distinctly Iowan. There are no clues in the paintings indicating they have any relationship to each other. Together, though, we recognize these individuals are also a community with a shared identity and future. In each portrait Ms. Frantzen expresses the dignity and beauty in her neighbors, and together her paintings proclaim the dignity and beauty of Maquoketa.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to visit the National Portrait Gallery to see Portrait of Maquoketa. It is an inspiring interpretation of American life.

BRUCE VENTO PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Park Trust Bruce Vento Public Service Award. This award was established in 2001 by the National Park Trust to honor the memory and legacy of Congressman Bruce Vento.

Congressman Vento was a relentless advocate for America's national parks and conservation heritage and my predecessor in representing the citizens of Minnesota's 4th Congressional District in the U.S. House. As Chair of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forest, and Public Lands, Mr. Vento passed more park legislation than any previous chairman.

The National Park Trust is a public-private partnership dedicated to the protection of America's parklands. This year, the National Park Trust presented the award to California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for his leadership in the protection of public lands in California and for his commitment to connecting children to the outdoors. I congratulate the Governor and commend the National Park Trust for its work in honoring the legacy of Congressman Vento.

HONORING THE REV. LLOYD SAATJIAN

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the Reverend Lloyd Saatjian, who passed away on July 28, 2009. Reverend Saatjian was a beloved pastor, humanitarian, social justice advocate, and so much more. His genuine warmth was felt by all who met him, and had unique ability to connect with people.

Reverend Saatjian was appointed to lead the First United Methodist Church of Santa

Barbara in 1989 where he served as Pastor until his retirement several years ago. During his time as Pastor, he was an active member of the Greater Santa Barbara Area Clergy Association where he worked closely with leaders from other local faith communities on a wide range of projects and initiatives, including an annual interfaith Thanksgiving service. Hosted at First United Methodist Church, this wonderful event brought together community members from every faith to find common ground and give thanks. This event held special significance in 2001 when it helped facilitate an open dialogue between the local Muslim community during a time of such great unrest and misunderstanding.

He also forged a unique and inspirational partnership with the local Jewish community to help rebuild African American churches in the American South that had fallen victim to arson. Beginning 11 years ago, this partnership has sent hundreds of my constituents to small rural towns across the South to help those in need. These trips have not only built places of worship, but also lasting friendships with church and community members from all walks of life. This ongoing partnership is a shining testament to Reverend Saatjian's lifelong commitment to social justice and interfaith collaboration.

Reverend Saatjian was a cherished and valued member of the Santa Barbara community, and he will be truly missed.

HONORING GERALD RICHARDSON, OGEMAW COUNTY VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a constituent who has distinguished himself both in service to his country and to his community. Mr. Gerald Richardson has been named "Ogemaw County Veteran of the Year" by the Ogemaw County Veterans Alliance. It is an honor befitting the dedication and patriotism Mr. Richardson has demonstrated both in the U.S. Navy and in civilian life.

Mr. Richardson was born January 4, 1930 in Centerline, Michigan to Carl and Pauline Richardson. Upon graduation from Hazel Park High School, Mr. Richardson went to work for Chrysler Corporation as an automatic screw machinist operator.

In January of 1951 Mr. Richardson went to serve his country, enlisting in the U.S. Navy. He attended basic training at Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Illinois and was assigned to Little Creek Naval Air Station in Virginia. After one month in Virginia, Mr. Richardson received his assignment to the USS *Casa Grande* LSD where he performed duties as a machinist mate, second class.

While onboard the USS *Casa Grande* LSD Mr. Richardson served in many missions and exercises, including supply missions to Newfoundland and Greenland. He and his crewmates also performed amphibious training in various locations. In December 1954 Mr. Richardson received an honorable discharge and returned to Michigan.

Upon discharge from the U.S. Navy, Mr. Richardson went back to working for Chrysler,